L Y N T O N

U R B A N D I S T R I C T

C O U N C I L.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 5.

Town Hall,
LYNTON,
North Devon.

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Lynton 3288.
Lynton 2204.

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LYNTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To: The Chairman and Members of
the Lynton Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my ANNUAL REPORT for the year ended 31st December 1965.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:	Dr. M.P. Nightingale, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. "Kneesworth", Lee Road, LYNTON. Private Tel: No: Lynton 2204.
Chief Public Health Inspector:	Mr. T.J. Loveless, A.I.A.S., M.A.P.H.I. Town Hall, LYNTON. Tel: No: Lynton 3288.
Clerk:	Mr. J.E. Beggs, Town Hall, LYNTON.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	7,628
Population (Reg.Gen. Mid-year Estimate) ..	1,680
Number of inhabited houses	620
Rateable Value	£58,157.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£226. 3. 8.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births: Legitimate: Males 9. Females 13. Total	22
Illegitimate: Males - Females 2. Total	2
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.28 (16.28 Adjusted)
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	8.33
Still births: Legitimate	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil
Total Live and Still births	24
Infant deaths under 1 year	Nil
Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 total live births	Nil
" " " " " " " " Legitimate	Nil
Illegitimate ..	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	Nil
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	Nil
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	Nil
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil
Deaths ..... Males ..... 9 Females ..... 20 ..... Total	29
Death rate per 1,000 population	17.262
Death rate per 1,000 population adjusted	10.702
Births: Comparability Factor	1.14
Deaths: Comparability Factor	0.62

Deaths.

16 had reached the age of 75 and over.
8 " " " " " 65 - 75
3 " " " " " 55 - 65

Deaths from:

Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous system	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	4
Hypertension with heart disease	1
Other heart disease	6
Other circulatory disease	2
Pneumonia	1
Other diseases of Respiratory system	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	2
Total	29

Notifiable Diseases.

Measles	15
Total	15

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year and I am pleased to mention the very low incidence of seasonal gastro-enteritis which no doubt is due mainly to the improved hygiene within the Urban District.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Proposals were submitted by the Devon County Council and work commenced on a new Health Clinic in Burvill Street, Lynton, sited near the Lynton and District Cottage Hospital. The Clinic when completed will provide Consulting and Waiting rooms for the Local Medical Practitioners, accommodation for the Health Visitor, Health Education Relaxation and Dentist/Chiropodist, a car park and pram park in the front, storage space and sanitary accommodation inside the building.

The Management Committee of the North Devon Hospital submitted proposals and work commenced on an extension to the Lynton and District Cottage Hospital in Lee Road. The extension will provide three maternity beds, extension to the Men's Ward, sanitary accommodation, Labour Ward, Consulting Room, etc.

The project was financed by voluntary subscriptions and will be in use next year.

A new entrance and parking space off Burvill Street was formed adjoining the proposed new Health Clinic.

The Chest Clinic for this area is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple.

Tuberculosis.

Treatment for tuberculosis is carried out at the Hawley Sanatorium in the Borough of Barnstaple and at Hawkmoor Sanatorium near Bovey Tracey.

Venereal Disease.

There were no reports of Venereal Disease. The nearest centre for treatment is at Barnstaple North Devon Infirmary and any cases that occur in this Urban District go direct to Barnstaple.

Ambulance Service.

Responsibility for the provision of an Ambulance Service rests with the County Council and its Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided by the Lynton St. John Ambulance Association.

The Staff consists of one part-time Member, 4 men Volunteers and 8 Volunteer Nurses. The Ambulance is garaged at Cross Street, Lynton. The Hospital Car Service is available on application by the Doctors to the Hospital.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

The nearest Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases is the Kingsley Hospital at Bideford.

Maternity.

There are two beds for maternity cases at the Lynton & District Cottage Hospital, with a fully qualified staff available. At the North Devon Infirmary there is an additional Ward available for cases of difficulty.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics are conducted at the Lynton Cottage Hospital by each General Practitioner in co-operation with the Hospital Staff.

Home Help Scheme.

The Home Nursing Service is operated by one District Nurse in conjunction with Nursing and Midwifery duties. In addition, assistance in the home is given by one Home Help.

Child Welfare.

The Centre is now held at the Methodist School Room, Lee Road, Lynton (near the Town Hall) and is open on the first and third TUESDAYS in the month, with a County Council Welfare Worker in attendance.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out by the General Practitioners of the area and also at the Welfare Centre and the School Clinics.

Laboratory Facilities.

Facilities are available for Bacteriological examinations of all kinds at the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter.

Water Supply.

The following information regarding the main water supply from the North Devon Water Board's Works at Dean Steep, Lynton, has been kindly given by the Chief Engineer (North).

The supply has been entirely satisfactory, both in quality and quantity, and no restrictions have had to be imposed. Bacteriological samples are taken weekly from various consumers taps in the area of the supply and of the 111 samples taken, all proved satisfactory and equivalent to a class 1 piped supply. Samples of bacteriological examinations are not normally taken of the raw water, as this is known to vary from day to day, according to rainfall but, in view of the substantial increase in camping during the Summer season within the catchment area of the stream which feeds the intake, weekly samples have been taken throughout the summer of 1965, and indicate the extent of seasonal pollution. Previous reports have contained The Counties Public Health Laboratories' reports on the samples taken from the raw water inlet and the samples submitted after treatment and these examination reports are still applicable.

The supply is not plumbo-solvent and no action is necessary with regard to contamination.

Standpipes from Public Mains are not used in Lynton, supplies being taken direct to all properties. The number of dwelling houses supplied direct from public mains is 530 and the estimated population supplied 1,501.

Fifteen samples from private supplies in the outlying district have been taken and nine samples were equivalent to a class 1 piped supply and two samples showed slight contamination.

The 500,000 gallon service reservoir in the Old Station vicinity is now complete and came into use this year. Properties at the Old Station will shortly be able to take a supply from the main.

The scheme to provide a main piped supply to Brendon and Rockford was completed this year.

A number of small defective sections of water main were renewed as part of a programme to improve the mains system in the Town area.

Sewerage.

The main sewerage systems in Lynton and Lynmouth operated satisfactorily without any complaints.

The sewer in North Walk Hill was renewed with a 6" pitch fibre pipe and access manholes at each end and change of direction and gradient. This replaced the old salt glazed stoneware pipe 9" - 15" which had become choked with tree roots and defective for most of its length and lacking access manholes.

The Council's Consulting Engineers completed their survey for the provision of a sewerage system for Barbrook Village and negotiations are now progressing between the Consultants, Devon River Board and Devon County Council to finalise details of the two river crossings. The delay is unavoidable but nevertheless disappointing.

Rainfall.

The following figures of rainfall were recorded on the Manor Grounds at Lynmouth during 1965:-

	Inches
January	6.21
February	.29
March	2.60
April	1.76
May	1.25
June	3.81
July	3.46
August	2.25
September	3.34
October	1.34
November	5.20
December	1.25
	32.76

Swimming Pool.

Only one swimming pool exists in the Urban District and is under the Control of the local authority. The Pool is sited on the Esplanade foreshore, Lynmouth, and is covered completely by each tide.

A private swimming pool was constructed adjoining the Tors Hotel and is the first private pool within the Urban District. The pool (24,000 gals.) is filled once per year with water from the Town Supply, continuously circulated around the pool by means of a pump, filtered and chlorinated in process of circulation. Periodic samples may be necessary during the season to ensure that a reasonable standard of purity is maintained.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of refuse, both from household and trade premises, was made weekly during the Winter months, and twice-weekly collections, with thrice-weekly collections from large houses and hotels, during the holiday period. Farm houses and dwellings in outlying areas receive, by agreement, quarterly collections.

Rodent Control.

The refuse tip remained free from heavy rodent infestation throughout the year and periodic treatment with Warfarin successfully kept the tip under control. A successful annual treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out in Lynton and Lynmouth.

Complaints of rodent infestation were still received from premises adjoining the river banks.

All treatments and inspections were carried out by the Council's part-time Rodent Operator.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises in the District:-

Type	
Bakehouses	1
Butcher's Shops	4
Cafes and Restaurants	20
Confectioners	10
Dairies	1
Grocer's Shops	8
Greengrocers	4
Licensed Premises	12
Hotel and Boarding Houses	65
Fish and Chip Shops	1
Fish Shops	-

Twenty seven Food Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of Ice Cream.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1960.

Total Number of Food Premises:-	126
Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (provision of wash hand basins)	87
Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies (provision of washing facilities for food and equipment)	110
Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19.	110

Forty six visits were paid to Food Premises during the year. The improvements in the standards of the premises visited have been continued. No formal action has been necessary.

Meat Inspection.

The private slaughterhouse in Lynton did not operate during 1965, all Butchers obtaining their meat from outside the Urban District.

Condemned Foodstuffs.

The following foodstuffs were condemned and disposed of by the Council at their Refuse Tip:-

Tinned Meat	9 tins
Other Foods (Tinned Damsons)	1 tin.

Milk Supply.

Three purveyors of milk are registered as distributors in the district. All milk supplied in the Urban District is either pasteurised or tuberculin tested.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957.

Two licences have been issued to operate boiling plants for waste food under the above provisions.

This duty has been delegated by the Devon County Council to the Council.

Petroleum.

The number of licensed premises in the year was 9.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING.

Licensed Sites.

Name of Site.	Static Holiday.	Touring.	Total.
Sunny Lyn, Lynbridge.	22	16	38
West Lyn, Manor Farm.	20	32	52
Dean Steep, Lynton	6	-	6
High Bullen	1	-	1
Sixacre Wood, Lee Abbey	1	-	1

The problem of "roadside" camping was again this year, as in other coastal resorts, a source of public health nuisance, and it is hoped some solution to this increasing problem will be found.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

The number of premises registered during 1965 was 17. Persons employed at registered premises were 91 males and 158 females - a total of 249 persons.

Total number of inspections made - 29.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	2	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	1	Nil	Nil
Total	6	3	Nil	Nil

Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspectr.	Referred by H.M. Inspectr.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING.

(a) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation 21

(b) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority. 6

(c) Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to (1) the service of notices requiring execution of works or (2) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders ..... Nil.

(d) Number of notices served requiring the execution of works ..... Nil.

(e) Number of Closing Orders made ..... Nil.

(f) Number of Demolition Orders made ..... Nil.

(g) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted ..... Nil.

(h) Number of houses demolished ..... Nil.

Improvement Grants.

Number of Standard Grants received and approved during the year amounted to 10; all were owner-occupiers of the premises.

Amenities provided included:

Fixed bath	9
Wash hand basin	9
Hot water system	9
W.C. within the dwelling	10
Food store	7

I have the honour to be
Ladies and
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

M.P. NIGHTINGALE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.